

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Original) An integrated respirator that provides an airtight barrier for a user's head comprising a first rigid helmet and a flexible cowl having an airtight neck seal, wherein the first rigid helmet defines an access aperture suitable for locating directly on a user's head and the flexible cowl is sealably fixed to the first rigid helmet so providing a physical barrier for the access aperture while forming an airtight seal with a user's neck.

Claim 2 (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the first rigid helmet and the flexible cowl comprise a material that protects against nuclear, chemical and biological hazards.

Claim 3. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the flexible cowl completely encloses the first rigid helmet.

Claim 4. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the flexible cowl is connected to the periphery of the access aperture.

Claim 5. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the flexible cowl connects to an inner surface of the first rigid helmet.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the first rigid helmet provides a tight fit with the user's head.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the integrated respirator further comprises a hood that is fixed to the first rigid helmet so providing a physical barrier for the flexible cowl thus improving the fire proof, snag proof and windblast proof properties of the integrated respirator.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the flexible cowl comprises a visor aperture, an oxygen mask location area, a visor mist air supply and a pressure release valve.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the integrated respirator further comprises a second rigid helmet suitable for locating over the first rigid helmet.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the integrated respirator further comprises an oxygen mask and a first visor.

Claim 11. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed Claim 8 wherein the oxygen mask location area comprises a plurality of apertures suitable for receiving one or more component parts of the oxygen mask when the oxygen mask is located within the oxygen mask location area.

Claim 12. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed Claim 8 wherein the oxygen mask location area comprises a single aperture suitable for receiving the oxygen mask.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed Claim 10 ~~to Claim 13~~ wherein the oxygen mask comprises a coating that provides a barrier for nuclear, biological and chemical hazards.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed Claim 10 ~~to Claim 13~~ the oxygen mask provides an air tight seal about the user's nose and mouth.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the flexible cowl further comprises a detachable front face connected to the flexible cowl by a first airtight seal.

Claim 16. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 15 wherein the first airtight seal comprises a beading edge associated with the detachable front face, a channel associated with the flexible cowl and suitable for receiving the beading edge and a zip mechanism suitable for opening and sealing the first airtight seal.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the flexible cowl comprises attachment point access holes and compression seals.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the flexible cowl further comprises a head cowl and a detachable lower section the head cowl and detachable lower section being connected by a second airtight seal.

Claim 19. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the second airtight seal comprises a beading edge associated with the head cowl, a channel associated with the detachable lower section and suitable for receiving the beading edge and a zip mechanism suitable for opening and sealing the second airtight seal.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 17 ~~to Claim 19~~ wherein the first rigid helmet further comprises an energy absorbing liner, attachment points suitable for threading through the

attachment point access holes such that the first rigid helmet can be connected to the second rigid helmet.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1 wherein the first rigid helmet further comprises ear phones and at least one earphone aperture associated with each earphone.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 10 ~~to Claim 21~~ wherein the first rigid helmet further comprises attachment means suitable for connecting oxygen mask mounting means of the oxygen mask to the first rigid helmet.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 21 ~~or Claim 22~~ wherein the first rigid helmet comprises a retractable earphone mount wherein the retractable earphone mount comprises a bias means that acts to maintain an associated earphone in a first position and a retracting means suitable for overcoming the bias means such that the associated earphone is moved to a second retracted position suitable for aiding the donning and doffing of the integrated respirator.

Claim 24. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the retracting means comprises a draw string threaded through an aperture in the first rigid helmet.

Claim 25. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the first rigid helmet further comprises a securing means to which the draw string can be attached so as to maintain the retractable earphone mount in the second retracted position.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 10 to ~~Claim 22~~ wherein the first visor locates within the first visor aperture so providing a visor airtight seal with the flexible cowl.

Claim 27. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the visor airtight seal provides means for adjusting the position of the first visor relative to the first rigid helmet.

Claim 28. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 27 wherein the means for adjustment allows the visor to move to a displaced position suitable for aiding the donning and doffing of the integrated respirator.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 9 to ~~Claim 28~~ wherein the second rigid helmet further comprises a second visor.

Claim 30. (Original) An integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 29 wherein the first and second visors comprise a high optical quality material that provides a barrier for nuclear, biological and chemical hazards.

Claim 31. (Original) A method of fabricating an integrated respirator comprising the steps of:

- 1) Fabricating a flexible cowl;
- 2) Forming an oxygen mask location area and a visor aperture in the flexible cowl;
- 3) Locating a visor within the visor aperture so as to form an airtight seal between the visor and the flexible cowl;
- 4) Locating an oxygen mask within the oxygen mask suspension system aperture so as to form an airtight seal between the oxygen mask and the flexible cowl; and
- 5) Attaching the flexible cowl to a first rigid helmet so as to form an airtight seal between the first rigid helmet and the flexible cowl.

Claim 32. (Original) A method of fabricating an integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 31 wherein location points on the helmet ensure that the flexible cowl is correctly located on the first rigid helmet and provide means for connecting the first rigid helmet to a second rigid helmet.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 31 ~~or Claim 32~~ wherein the step of fabricating the flexible cowl further comprises the steps of:

- 1) Vacuum forming a flexible material and fixing the vacuum formed material by seam welding; and
- 2) Fabricating an airtight neck seal and attaching said neck seal to the vacuum formed material;

Claim 34. (Original) A method of fabricating an integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 33 wherein the step of fabricating the flexible cowl further comprises the steps of:

- 1) Connecting a visor mist air supply to the vacuum formed material; and
- 2) Connecting a pressure release valve to the vacuum formed material.

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 31 ~~to Claim 34~~ wherein the step of locating the visor further comprises the step of injection moulding the visor from a material of high optical coating.



Claim 36. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 31 to ~~Claim 35~~ wherein the step of locating the visor further comprises the step of coating the outer surface of the visor with a nuclear, biological and chemical resistant coating.

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating an integrated respirator as claimed in Claim 31 to ~~Claim 36~~ wherein the step of locating the visor further comprises the steps of coating the inner surface of the visor with an anti fogging coating.